

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)  
November 2021

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# Albemarle - Pamlico

## National Estuary Partnership

# Sound Stories

November 2021



As 2021 nears its end, we at the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the people who've worked alongside us to protect and restore our estuary this year. From those who serve on an [APNEP committee or team](#), to people who support our mission through the work of their organizations, we know that maintaining a healthy Albemarle-Pamlico estuary is possible only through our collaborative efforts and look forward to continuing to work towards our shared goals in 2022 and beyond.

We are participating once more in the [State of North Carolina's internship program](#) and will welcome a Science Communication and Outreach Intern to the APNEP team for the summer. Please pass along [the internship announcement](#) to any undergraduate or graduate students who are interested in science communication or outreach - the application deadline is fast approaching on January 3rd!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bill Crowell  
APNEP Director

# APNEP NEWS



## 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Amendment Approved by NC Regulatory Commissions

We are pleased to announce that the 2021 amendment to the [NC Coastal Habitat Protection Plan](#) or CHPP was unanimously approved for adoption by the Coastal Resources Commission, Environmental Management Commission, and Marine Fisheries Commission in late November. Thanks to hard work by the [North Carolina Coastal Habitat Coalition](#), public engagement in this CHPP revision has been at an all-time high.

The CHPP is a guidance document that addresses the habitat and water quality efforts needed to protect, enhance, and restore fish habitat in North Carolina. APNEP Coastal Habitats Coordinator Jimmy Johnson works with the NC Division of Marine Fisheries to implement the CHPP and to integrate its priorities with those of [APNEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) (CCMP).

The CHPP will now be sent to NC DEQ Secretary Biser and the NC Joint Legislative Commission on Government Operations for review. Barring any further comments or suggested changes, the 2021 CHPP amendment should be approved before the end of January.

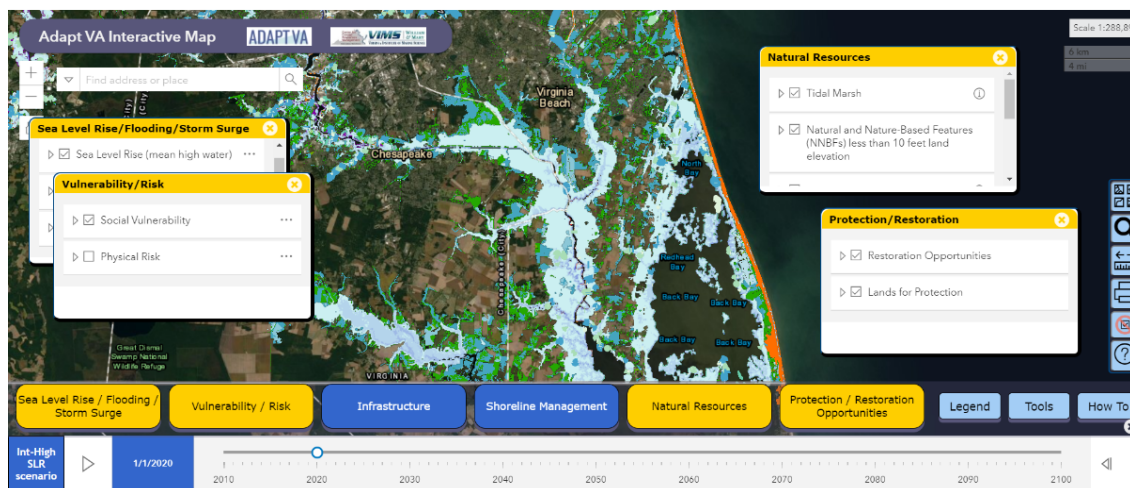
**Learn more about the 2021 CHPP Amendment**



## Applications Open for 2021 APNEP Science Communication and Outreach Internship!

We're excited to announce that we're looking for a Science Communication and Outreach Intern to join us for summer 2022 through the State of North Carolina Internship Program! The intern will create content and assist with communications activities that contribute to our mission of protecting and restoring the Albemarle-Pamlico region. Undergraduate and graduate students attending a North Carolina-based university are eligible to apply. Applications are due by January 3rd and details are available [on our website](#).

### Apply for the Internship



## Promoting Natural and Nature-Based Features to Enhance Coastal Resilience

Since 2018, APNEP has collaborated with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic (VCPC), and Wetlands Watch to [develop an approach to increase the use of natural and nature-based features \(NNBF\) for flood mitigation](#) in

waterways of North Carolina and Virginia.

The long-term goal of this process is to create a resource that assists local stakeholders in identifying and prioritizing NNBFs for protection and restoration, as well highlighting the range of ecosystem services and regulatory incentives they provide. If you are interested in learning more about this effort, you can participate in a [short survey](#) and indicate your interest in scheduling a meeting to review the VIMS NNBF tool and discuss its application in North Carolina.

Thank you to all of our partners that have met with us and Wetlands Watch to learn about the project and provide feedback so far!

### Learn more about the NNBF project



## APNEP STAC Members Recognized for Long-Time Service

Long-time [APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee](#) (STAC) members Dr. Kirk Havens (STAC member 2004-2020) and Dr. Jess Whitehead (STAC member 2010-2020) recently received plaques recognizing their dedication to furthering APNEP's mission of identifying, protecting, and restoring the Albemarle-Pamlico region's natural resources. We'd like to extend our gratitude to them as well as all our other STAC, Leadership Council, and other committee members for their service. It's



## APNEP Education and Stewardship RFP Projects Selected

APNEP is pleased to announce that after review by an independent committee of environmental education and outreach professionals, [Lynnhaven River Now](#) (LRNow) and the [Friends of North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences](#) have been awarded APNEP funding for projects that support our mission through education and public engagement.

Lynnhaven River Now (LRNow) will create a resource guide and lesson plans for Virginia and North Carolina educators on the headwaters of the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound. The project will consist of two unique immersive teacher training experiences in the southern watersheds of Virginia that flow into the Pasquotank River Basin and the Albemarle Sound. The project will be completed in partnership with False Cape State Park, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and various university researchers and environmental educators from Virginia and North Carolina.

The Friends of North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences was awarded funds to continue their [“Shad in the Classroom” program](#). The program engages students in hands-on learning about American Shad and North Carolina’s River basins in the APNEP region. The program is also designed to foster an appreciation and understanding of the natural world, and to inspire the next generation of biologists and conservationists. This project will be completed in partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina State University, and other partners.

**Learn about the APNEP Engagement and Stewardship Team**



## Audubon and Coalition Announce Conservation Plan for Currituck Marshes

*Marsh migration and restoration will be key as Currituck region adapts to rapid coastal change.*

Along with our partners at the [Currituck Sound Coalition](#), we are excited to announce the publication of a conservation plan that lays out the threats facing the region's freshwater marshes and the ways in which we can preserve and restore this globally rare ecosystem for wildlife and people.

APNEP is proud to be a part of the Coalition led by [Audubon North Carolina](#). "Currituck Sound and its wetlands provide a unique ecosystem on the east coast, and Audubon and the Coalition members have made significant progress in the development of this plan to help protect and restore our Estuary of National Significance," said Dr. William Crowell, Director, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership. We look forward to supporting efforts to implement the plan, including facilitating conversations and connections with Virginia partners in support of our [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to foster interstate collaboration within the shared waterways of the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Learn more about the Currituck Sound Coalition Marsh Conservation Plan

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# Meeting Summaries

- APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (November

priority topic for review. Presentations by representatives of the North Carolina Forest Service and Virginia Department of Forestry provided overviews of the role these agencies serve in monitoring practices to protect water resources during forestry activities, with a focus on the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine System (APES) waters.



## Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact [apnep@ncdenr.gov](mailto:apnep@ncdenr.gov).

## Current Grant Opportunities



- January 10: [Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#)
- January 25: [Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program 2022 RFP](#)
- January 26: [EPA Water Quality Benefits RFP](#)
- February 3: [NFWF Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund 2021 RFP](#)
- February 4: [NC Sea Grant Community Collaborative Research Grant](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

# Partner Spotlight



## Submissions Welcome for NC Climate Education Network Art Contest

The NC Climate Education Network is inviting K-12 students from across North Carolina to turn climate data into art as [part of an annual contest](#). The goal of this contest is to bring information and creativity together to tell a story by creating art from climate-related data. Students should submit photos of their works of art by December 16th to be included in the contest. View all the amazing submissions so far [in this statewide map](#)!

[Learn more about the Contest and Submit Artwork](#)

## What We're Reading

- [Estuaries, though small, have huge economic impact: report](#) (*Coastal Review Online*)
- [Engaging Students - 2021 Shad in the Classroom](#) (NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society - scroll down to find the article)
- [North Carolina Approves Updated Coastal Habitat Plan - A Win for Nature, Communities](#) (Pew)
- [Southeast Blueprint Now Available](#) (Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy)

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